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DEMING, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1916.

What prevents Deming from being all that its most ardent boosters have dreamed? Just petty jealousy among the citizens. Senseless, little, degrading, but ever present. It keeps all communities down.

WHY THE NATIONAL GUARD HAS PREVAILED

There seems to be a disposition on the part of many editors to make a martyr of Ex-Secretary of War Garrison. Garrison makes a mighty poor martyr, both as to temperament and virtue. He was generally recognized as a man of more than ordinary ability and combativeness; the latter quality has made him the victim of a single idea. He was too "pig-headed" to be of service to his country and like Ex-Secretary of State Bryan he failed when he was most needed. He has not deserved the honors that have been his.

Garrison quit the cabinet because he knew that his plans for a Continental army were not acceptable to Congress. He had intended to destroy the National Guard by superseding it by another force that would have automatically displaced it. He did not pretend that his plan was anything but a makeshift—a preparation for universal service. The plan had no record of experience to recommend it. Others did not see in it the advantages claimed for it by the secretary of war. Indeed, whatever of virtue it may have possessed, was offset by the one great drawback that it would have been impossible to get 400,000 men or any considerable part of that number to enlist under so weak a system. Being enlisted by congressional districts, it would have been impossible to have held the same men together in the same units for more than a year at a time, without which, in the short time set apart for training, it could not be turned into an efficient fighting machine. In the long periods between trainings, it would have no organization—no being, in fact. But it would have made an excellent political machine, for all of its lack of military strength.

Those that had given their time and energy to the patriotic, unhampered, and unremunerated duties of the National Guard were not going to passively see the organization so painfully created destroyed because of one man's hobby. How much time had Mr. Garrison given to national defense without pay?

The officers of the National Guard understand the weaknesses as well and deplore them quite as much as Mr. Garrison. They know it is "national" only in name. They know how inefficient it is because of lack of discipline and availability. But the United States government has never yet tried to make anything else out of the National Guard. At the present time it costs real money and time for a citizen to be a private. Only a high patriotism has made the organization possible. No other considerable body of men contribute so liberally of time and money for the public good. Mr. Garrison's patriotism has never been called on to stand this test.

No man has ever gained esteem in his community by wearing the shabby brand of the "tin soldier." Yet it is the National Guard, with the tiny regular army, that must stand the first terrible shock of conflict—to sacrifice their lives, in fact, because of the almost criminal neglect of so-called statesmen that place "pork" far before preparedness.

It is true that history reiterates with dreary sameness that "the militia ran away" in almost every foreign war in which the country has engaged. But so did the federal volunteers, whenever called on to face a disciplined and prepared enemy. Nothing else short of a miracle could happen, else science and skill is flouted. In this connection it must be remembered that "militia" usually means strictly state troops gathered after the manner of federal volunteers and sent out for a few days to do something they had no knowledge of. Seidon was the organization kept up after the emergency had passed. The National Guard as at present constituted has a continuous being, is equipped, and has been drilled. Enlistment is for two years. It has been said that cowardice is "consciousness of defeat." The swigger is soon taken out of the recruit when he faces the cold steel of the regular. The regular knows that the surest way to get killed is to disobey his officers and run away. He has more fear than the recruit, because he knows what is before him. But he knows what to do and realizes that the only way to come out with a whole skin is to do it. The militiaman, owing to lack of training, does not trust his officers and still less himself. He realizes when it is too late that the fighting machine which opposes him possesses every trick of the rifle and bayonet and is thoroughly at home in camp and field. The result is that panic seizes the stoutest hearts, and possible victory is turned into disastrous rout.

The National Guard organization possesses many advantages over the proposed Continental army. It keeps up the contact throughout the year through weekly drills and yearly camps. Its material is in the hands of its members and they become more or less familiar with it and its use. The men know each other and their officers, which is conducive to confidence.

The United States government does not possess sufficient regular troops to protect the several states, hence the need for state troops. President Wilson admitted this in his preparedness speeches, when he said he "felt like advising Texas to build up its ranger force" that it might protect its own borders against the Mexican bandits. The states are not willing to turn over all control of their military forces to the federal government under existing conditions. They are willing, however, that the state forces shall be used for the national defense. They have willingly accepted the niggardly support of congress, and are willing to accept more, giving more in return. If the federal government is financially and morally unable to support an army, what can be expected of individuals states? It is possible for congress to get exactly what it is willing to pay for. Congress has the power to create a larger regular army, if more than this is needed. Judging from past performances, congress cannot be wholly trusted to "provide for the common defense," as is required by the constitution.

The citizens of Deming know how difficult it is to maintain the local unit of the National Guard. The uniforms provided by the federal government would discredit Coxy's army. The men must provide their own shoes, shirts, and underclothing. They are not provided with overcoats. Their guns have seen service—how long nobody knows—in the Philippines and elsewhere. The yearly camps are "mad houses," because of the absence of system, due to a shortage of funds.

The National Guard idea has prevailed because it has deserved to prevail. Even President Wilson is but a recent convert to preparedness—had to be frightened into it, rather than having embraced it as the result of deliberate reasoning. The country at large is just awakening to the danger and the necessity of preparing to meet it. The National Guard exists because a few all along knew the danger. They are asking if the Rip van Winkles undo the work of those that have so faithfully labored unsupported, foisting their panic-stricken and half-baked ideas on the country? They shall not! Until the time comes, and grant it may come soon, when every voter is also a "shooter," let the national honor rest in the keeping of those that deem it an honor and a privilege to protect it even in the face of contumely and neglect.

ODD BITS OF NEWS

Chicago—Country-wide search is being made for Jean Crouse, believed to be the arch plotter in a gigantic conspiracy to damage buildings, destroy property and take human life in an anarchistic movement against the established order of society.

Crouse is accused of having placed poison in soup served to 300 distinguished guests at a recent banquet in honor of Archbishop Mundelein. Crouse's friend, John Allegretti, was arraigned Tuesday on charges of conspiracy to murder and of attempt to murder. His bond was fixed at \$25,000 and the hearing was continued until March 1. Meanwhile the police renewed scrutiny of letters found on the prisoner on which suspicion of a plot was based. The police investigated the possibility that Jean Crouse, in his flight from his rooming house, might have carried loaded bombs. Scraps of metal in his lodgings indicated that bombs had been made there.

Washington—The liberality of various joint land commissions in settling claims for property taken in the canal zone, has robbed the United States of millions of dollars, Gen. Goethals last Saturday told the house interstate commerce committee.

All of the land in the 10-mile strip along the canal subject to claims would not be worth more than \$1,000,000, at its 1907 value, when the treaty was made, the general said, but it is likely to cost \$17,000,000 at the rate now being paid.

Washington—Secretary Lansing said today that the German government's announced intention of sinking armed merchantmen without warning after Feb. 29 has reopened the entire question of submarine warfare. The Lusitania agreement presented Wednesday cannot be finally accepted until the United States determines whether anything in it conflicts with the new policy of sinking armed merchant ships.

It was pointed out that American officials realized that the Lusitania agreement refers to "liners" and that the newly announced German submarine policy refers to all armed ships, which might include liners. Before the Lusitania agreement finally is accepted it will be necessary to clarify the situation by making it necessary to clarify the situation.

Count von Bernstorff told Secretary Lansing it was his personal opinion that in carrying out the new submarine campaign it was not the intention of the German government to sink "liners." Mr. Lansing is understood to have informed him that such a statement from the German government is desirable.

While France and Flanders are the fields of military activity that soon now command chief attention, the operations of the Russians in their Caucasian campaign are developing notable points of interest. The development of the capture of nine of the forts of the Turkish stronghold of Erzerum, the chief city of Turkish Armenia, where it is said that 80,000 men are locked up with not more than two weeks' provisions.

The British Mesopotamian armies appear to be making little progress.

Chicago—W. H. Orpet, University of Wisconsin student, accused of poisoning his former sweetheart, Marian Frances Lambert, whose body was found in the woods in Lake Forest last week, changed his story Tuesday, according to State's Attorney Dady, and admitted buying an empty bottle from a Madison, Wis. drug store, just before going to keep the trust with the girl in the north shore woods.

Failure to find any poison container near the scene of the girl's death has puzzled the authorities.

New York—The Republican state convention Wednesday adopted a platform intended as a keynote for the Republican national campaign, endorsed the Whitman state administration and named U. S. Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr., Governor Charles Whitman, Frederick Tamm, and State Senator E. R. Brown, republican leader of the senate, as the "Big Four" to represent New York state in the national convention.

The principal points in the platform were: Advocacy of complete preparation for the common defense; economic, industrial and financial as well as military, including a recommendation for a naval general staff and substantial strengthening of naval and military forces of the United States.

New York—The steamship Bolton Castle and Pacific and a 600-foot pier of the New York Dock Company in Brooklyn, were destroyed by fire early Wednesday morning. The ship's crew and lighters were partly or wholly destroyed and two persons are missing.

San Francisco—The federal grand jury returned another indictment, each Monday in the bomb plot case against Franz Bopp, consul general for Germany here; Baron E. H. von Schuck, vice-consul for Germany; Baron George Wilhelm von Brincken, a lieutenant of the German army connected with the German consulate; Charles C. Crowley and Margaret Cornell, detectives employed by the consulate; J. H. Van Koolbergen, and Louis J. Smith.

Washington—Rear Admiral Grant, the submarine chief, and the first secretary of the navy, appeared at the hearings of the house naval committee, said Monday that he believed the American type of submarine should be at once abandoned and only larger boats of at least 800 tons surface displacement be constructed. It was boats of this size, he said, which had done the most efficient work for the German navy in the present war.

Clifton, Ariz.—The walk-out of employees of the Detroit Copper Company last Friday was settled Saturday afternoon. An investigation will be held.

Washington—National preparedness problems again are holding the center of the stage of the congressional committee activity. Having concluded its hearings on military defense questions, Chairman Chamberlain and his associates on the senate military defense committee Monday began the framing of a bill on the subject.

Chairman Hay and members of the house committee resumed work early in the week of redrafting the house defense bill.

The house naval committee Monday began an exhaustive inquiry into submarine warfare and the alleged shortage of American submarines.

Washington—Speaker Clark and other Southern members of congress joined Tuesday in eulogizing Abraham Lincoln and in urging the house to concur in a senate proposal to add \$594,000 to the \$2,000,000 already appropriated.

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